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Chairman: Mr. Maleki (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Islamic Republic of Iran)

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In the absence of Mr. Mohamad (Sudan), Mr. Maleki (Islamic Republic of Iran), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 34: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Kruljević** (Serbia) said that participation in peacekeeping was one of the most important contributions Member States were called upon to make in the common interest, there being no alternative to the United Nations as a collective response mechanism. Serbia's own contributions had thus far been modest, but would gradually be increasing and, with that in mind, his Government had established a training centre for peacekeeping service abroad.

2. There were currently three peacekeeping operations in Europe: in Cyprus, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo and Metohija, and they had proved vital in preventing the resurgence of armed conflicts and in creating the conditions for gradual stabilization. However, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), a civilian peacekeeping operation, had in eight years failed to ensure security, freedom of movement or the return of internally displaced persons, to improve basic living conditions for the Serbs and other non-Albanians in the province or to redress property-privatization irregularities.

3. Serbia was firmly committed to trying to settle the future status of Kosovo and Metohija peacefully within the ongoing negotiations under the auspices of the Contact Group Troika, but would agree only to solutions acceptable to both sides and approved by the Security Council. Other alternatives, especially unilaterally declared independence and its recognition, would result in unforeseeable consequences for the stability and security of South-East Europe, and indeed Europe as a whole. The UNMIK mandate must remain in force until the Security Council decided otherwise, and any change not approved by Serbia and adopted by the Council was unacceptable. Moreover, any future mission to Serbia would have to cooperate with his Government. Serbia would continue contributing its utmost to the functioning of UNMIK and the Kosovo Force of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

4. **Mr. Salim** (India) observed that the unprecedented surge in peacekeeping operations recently had created enormous challenges, not least because of their unaccustomed danger and complexity and the tools they required.

5. The welcome restructuring of the peacekeeping secretariat in order to improve military planning, management and operational capacities nevertheless still required the establishment of clear, unified command structures, coherence in policy and strategy, and effective coordination and integration. The 2008 midterm review should allow appropriate adjustments to be made at that point.

6. The safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers was of vital concern to troop contributors, who placed their soldiers at risk in pursuit of the United Nations ideal. Reliable operational and tactical intelligence was essential for conducting military operations successfully and for averting potential threats, and the United Nations must improve its capacity for information-sharing with field units. India looked forward to examining the draft security-management-system policy being prepared by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Safety and Security.

7. It also encouraged the Secretary-General to consider consolidating peacekeeping accounts while undertaking administrative reorganization and streamlining, thus providing an opportunity to tackle the selective financing of peacekeeping missions by some Member States and the matter of overdue payments to the troop-contributing countries, most of them from the developing world. Also, the mechanism for consultations between troop-contributing countries, the Security Council and the Secretariat must allow greater scope for meaningful discussions. Troop-contributing countries should be involved early and fully in all aspects and stages of mission planning, and their views must find their way into mission mandates.

8. The draft "capstone doctrine" prepared by DPKO to serve as a practical guide for peacekeeping should focus on planning and deployment and on operational and logistical issues, and Member States must be consulted before its publication in final form.

9. India, as one of the most consistent contributors to United Nations missions in Africa, having participated in almost every major operation there since the inception of peacekeeping, believed that the

peacekeeping capacity of African countries should be enhanced. Yet the real challenge was to strengthen peacekeeping without regionalizing it.

10. Sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers were totally unacceptable. Those with managerial and command responsibilities over the troops must be alerted to the problem, and standards of conduct, training and investigation must be instituted. Careful preparatory training to instil a multicultural and tolerant outlook was as important as swift punitive action after the fact. The new Integrated Training Service should draw on the considerable field experience of the troop-contributing countries. Also, the relevant revisions to the model memorandum of understanding should be implemented as soon as possible.

11. The United Nations bodies involved in security should clarify the various dimensions of security-sector reform. Also, DPKO should ensure that the policy on enhanced rapidly deployable capacities, once adopted, adequately reflected the views of Member States.

12. The role of civilian police in peacekeeping had grown substantially. His delegation looked forward to constructive discussions with the new Police Advisor regarding the utilization of the Standing Police Capacity and its future requirements. The troop-contributing countries should be represented in the senior leadership in the Police Division.

13. India had long included women among its military and police officers in a number of missions, and had provided the first all-female police unit to have served; attached to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), it had proved effective in reaching out to women and children in that post-conflict environment, in addition to performing its normal duties.

14. His delegation wished to salute all those who had lost their lives while serving in United Nations missions: 115 Indian peacekeepers had died out of the nearly 100,000 troops India had contributed to more than 40 missions over the years.

15. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) emphasized the importance of the principles that governed United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the consent of the parties concerned before the deployment of any mission, impartiality, and the use of force only in self-defence. Peacekeeping missions ought to have a clear mandate, be adequately funded and have logistical support. Furthermore, such missions should not interfere in the internal affairs of the countries to which they were deployed.

16. The restructuring of DPKO was not only a response to the increased demand for peacekeeping operations, but a reflection of the fundamental change in the nature of armed conflict in the twenty-first century. Thus it was vital to link that restructuring with the ongoing efforts to develop guiding principles for United Nations peacekeeping operations (the "capstone doctrine"). Future operations should be undertaken in the context of comprehensive peace agreements among all parties to a conflict and of a balanced partnership among all international peacekeeping partners, including the Security Council, the General Assembly, DPKO, the Department of Field Support (DFS), troop-contributing countries, relevant regional organizations, donor countries and the Governments of the countries concerned.

17. Despite the increasing confidence of the international community in the Organization's abilities to undertake peacekeeping operations, he said there were a number of points that his delegation wished to emphasize, including the importance of ensuring the safety and security of peacekeeping troops and of United Nations employees in the field; the need for increased consultations between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries prior to the establishment of a new mission; the vital link between peacebuilding and development in conflict-torn areas; the continued need to take appropriate measures in response to any wrongdoing by peacekeeping personnel; and the need to disseminate a culture of peacekeeping by raising awareness of the role the United Nations played in the maintenance of international peace and security.

18. Welcoming the deployment of the United Nations Light and Heavy Support Packages to the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) and the establishment of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) in accordance with Security Council resolution 1769 (2007), he said that the Hybrid Operation should have a predominantly African character and the troops should, as far as possible, be sourced from African countries, as called for in that resolution.

19. **Mr. Kariyawasam** (Sri Lanka) said that the diversity and complexity of the many new peacekeeping operations established in recent years presented a challenge, but also provided opportunities for personnel from different regions of the world to work together towards the common goal of maintaining peace and stability and stemming violence. Especially in multidimensional peacekeeping operations, the principles of the Charter must remain the point of departure, and basic principles such as the consent of the parties, non-intervention in internal affairs, and non-use of force as a general rule remained valid and must be observed by peacekeepers.

20. Commendable efforts were being made to compile a comprehensive doctrine and a practical guide to peacekeeping (the "capstone doctrine"), a policy document outlining the lessons learned and the best peacekeeping practices. The troop- and police-contributing countries, however, had to be consulted during the further drafting of the document.

21. Sri Lanka looked forward to the midterm review of the restructuring of DPKO. Clearly, additional resources would be needed and the existing staff and material resources would have to be expanded and reallocated within the Secretariat, in the interests of better management of peacekeeping operations and greater integrity in all aspects of peacekeeping, including troop safety and security, accountability in resource management, and responsible conduct by all categories of United Nations staff and related personnel. The recruitment of more peacekeeping staff should be done transparently so as to ensure fair representation for the troop-contributing developing countries in senior Secretariat positions and at field headquarters.

22. The conduct and discipline of United Nations troops needed to be addressed in view of occurrences of sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations had done well to revise the model memorandum of understanding in that respect, and those revisions should be incorporated as well into existing memorandums of understanding between the United Nations and troop-contributing countries, with clarification of which issues pertained to the exclusive jurisdiction of Member States and what the role of the Office of Internal Oversight Services should be. Allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse must be investigated speedily, and all preliminary evidence gathered by the Office's investigators should be shared with the Member States concerned as they pursued their own investigations. Throughout, the principle that a person was innocent until proven guilty must be safeguarded, and media sensationalism regarding allegations must be countered until the facts were properly substantiated.

23. While the United Nations Integrated Training Service was doing valuable work, more should be done to strengthen training centres at the national level.

24. **Mr. Muharemi** (Croatia) observed that his country was no stranger to questions relating to peacekeeping. As a former recipient country, it was now proud to be contributing military and police officers to 15 United Nations missions worldwide, to which it brought its unique experience in post-conflict situations. It would soon begin providing specialized military units to peacekeeping missions as well. As a small country with limited resources, it found especially useful the regular briefings and reports given to troop-contributing countries by the DPKO Situation Centre.

25. Croatia had been offering training courses to peacekeepers from emerging troop-contributing countries, 20 of which, from all parts of the world, had thus far participated. Croatia had also contributed to the e-learning courses that the United Nations had devised for African peacekeepers. Aware of the importance of a strong police presence in peacekeeping missions, Croatia was increasing its police contribution and was patterning its own police courses for participants from other Member States on the United Nations police training. Moreover, his Government was encouraging female candidates from its armed forces and police forces to apply for participation in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and currently 7 per cent of the personnel it deployed were women.

26. It was in the common interest that the aims of peacekeeping should not be compromised in any way. Therefore, Croatia fully supported the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, which should result in the strict implementation of a zero-tolerance policy for any misconduct.

27. **Mr. Sangqu** (South Africa) said that his delegation welcomed the Secretariat's support for the enhancement of African peacekeeping operations through the development of generic planning and management capacities and the provision of technical

support to the African Union. Recognizing the importance of partnership in peacekeeping, it supported all efforts to establish a focal point for cooperation between the United Nations and African Union and closer partnerships with regional organizations. In addition to capacity-building, cooperation should focus on funding and logistics, which were two areas of weakness in African peacekeeping. At the same time, it was important to bear in mind that the maintenance of international peace and security was the primary responsibility of the United Nations.

28. Recognizing the challenges of multidimensional peacekeeping, his delegation supported the efforts to link peacekeeping with a broad peacebuilding strategy and looked forward to discussions on the interaction between the Peacebuilding Commission and DPKO. Disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and security-sector reform were the pillars of effective peacebuilding and also contributed to sustainable post-conflict reconstruction. Emphasis should also be put on supporting political processes, and peacekeeping operations must be in consonance with the purposes and goals of the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation supported the Secretary-General's proposed reform measures and was of the view that concepts and terminology should reflect changing circumstances on the ground. In that connection, it looked forward to further discussions on the draft "capstone doctrine", which would provide guiding principles and standard operating procedures for peacekeeping operations.

29. The safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel in the field needed to be strengthened. His delegation was encouraged by the sharing and management of information in the field. It was important to draw lessons from previous security incidents and the Department should carry out an evaluation of all incidents. With regard to staffing concerns, the Department should continue its efforts to address the imbalance of geographical representation, gender distribution and representation of unrepresented Member States. In particular, the Department should have proportionate representation from troop-contributing and police-contributing countries. Given the nature and sensitivity of cases involving sexual exploitation and abuse, his delegation fully supported mandatory training in those areas for all categories of peacekeeping personnel. It reiterated its support for the zero-tolerance policy.

30. **Mr. Al-Otmi** (Yemen) said that the recent increase in the peacekeeping budget and the number of missions indicated that not enough effort was being devoted to development, education, health and agriculture. Peacekeeping operations were not permanent solutions to conflicts. Instead, the community of nations should channel more economic aid and technical assistance to those regions of the world mired in backwardness and poverty. Doing so would address the true causes of conflict and spare Member States the vast sums of money being spent on peacekeeping operations.

31. The peaceful resolution of conflicts depended on the application of the principles of preventive diplomacy, including respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of States, non-interference in States' internal affairs, addressing the root causes of conflict, and application of the Charter of the United Nations to all.

32. In order for the "capstone doctrine" to fulfil its purpose, it should garner the greatest possible support from Member States. Thus it was important that the Secretariat, in drafting that doctrine, should take into account the concerns of troop-contributing countries, pay special attention to the terms used in the doctrine and emphasize that force should be used only in self-defence.

33. The success of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) depended on the success of the political process, which in turn required the full participation of all parties to the conflict. He also stressed that all missions should have clear mandates and enjoy logistic, financial and political support.

34. In conclusion, he said that his country supported a zero-tolerance policy in respect of acts of sexual abuse and exploitation committed by United Nations peacekeepers. All accusations of such abuse and exploitation should be investigated fully.

35. **Ms. Mtamboh** (Zambia) said that her delegation called for the strengthening of security-management procedures developed by the Department of Safety and Security and DPKO and looked forward to the finalization and approval by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations of a security policy on military observers, staff officers and police officers deployed in an individual capacity. Given that peacekeeping was the flagship of the United Nations,

all peacekeeping personnel must behave in a manner that preserved the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the Organization. Her Government would continue to assist in enforcing all standards aimed at eradicating sexual exploitation and abuse.

36. In the context of the reform, peacekeeping personnel were required to develop specific skills in order to deliver support services. Her country called for further assistance with training and capacity-building in order to improve its representation at the professional level in peacekeeping operations. However, training alone did not prevent the marginalization of the developing countries, and the Department should ensure that selection systems were based on merit and incorporated geographical representation. There was need for greater cooperation between the Department, the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries, which should have a greater say in decision-making relating to peacekeeping.

37. Although the General Assembly had emphasized the importance of expediting the settlement of death and disability claims, her country continued to face problems in that regard. Some claims had been pending for years because supporting documents had not been provided by the Organization. Her delegation called for claim procedures to be simplified in order to enable early settlement.

38. **Mr. Chidyausiku** (Zimbabwe) said that it was essential to address the problem of understaffing in both DPKO and DFS in order to benefit from the reform. In particular, the post of Under-Secretary-General for Field Support should be filled expeditiously. His delegation called on the Secretariat to recruit and fill all vacancies in a transparent and professional manner in order to ensure that the best candidates were selected on the basis of equitable geographical representation at Headquarters and in the field.

39. Zimbabwe was a regular contributor to peacekeeping operations and had deployed military and police observers to six peacekeeping missions. It had consistently pledged troops and equipment to the standby-arrangements system and would continue to increase its pledges in support of peacekeeping operations. The Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre in Harare trained peacekeepers for future deployment using South African Development Community resources. His delegation believed that the Integrated Training Service should interest itself in that initiative. It was important that the draft "capstone doctrine" should be finalized through wide-ranging consultations. With regard to reports of cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, his delegation reiterated its strong commitment to the zero-tolerance policy. A concerted effort was required in order to end such acts of misconduct. In addition, the success of all peacekeeping operations called for the close cooperation of all stakeholders, including the United Nations and its agencies as well as the troop-contributing and police-contributing countries.

40. **Mr. Bu Dhhair** (Kuwait) said that, in order to increase the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping missions, those missions should be given clear and precise mandates. Effective leadership structures and increased cooperation between the United Nations and the troop-contributing countries and organizations would also help to enhance their effectiveness.

41. He expressed his appreciation to the European Union and the African Union for their constructive support and exemplary cooperation. His delegation was also satisfied with the support and cooperation that Member States had provided to the Organization as it sought to enhance its peacekeeping abilities.

42. He commended the United Nations for its role in maintaining boundary markers between Kuwait and Iraq pursuant to Security Council resolution 833 (1993). For its part, Kuwait had implemented the recommendations contained in the technical report by removing all obstacles and creating conditions conducive to the work of the relevant United Nations bodies. While his country was pleased with Iraq's cooperation in the matter, he urged it to make greater efforts to remove obstacles on its side of the border so as to ease further the maintenance of boundary markers.

43. Although Kuwait's share of the peacekeeping budget had increased fivefold over the preceding few years, it had continued to meet its obligations completely and in a timely fashion and urged other countries to do likewise. His delegation condemned actions that threatened United Nations peacekeeping personnel, who were risking their lives in the service of peace, and urged that everything possible should be done to ensure their safety.

44. **Mr. Choi** Sung-soo (Republic of Korea) said that the unprecedented surge in the number and scope of peacekeeping operations and the broad support of the international community were clear evidence of the Organization's crucial role in maintaining global peace and security. His delegation was of the view that cooperation between the United Nations and regional and international organizations was a key factor in addressing peace and security issues. Cooperation should extend to all stakeholders, including major financial contributors, in the form of regular consultation. With regard to the reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, his delegation strongly supported the zero-tolerance policy and advocated increasing the responsibility of commanding officers for the misconduct of their personnel. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the draft model memorandum of understanding on sexual exploitation and abuse.

45. The success of peacekeeping missions depended to some degree on the rapid deployment of peacekeeping forces. His delegation would like to see constructive engagement with all troop-contributing countries in order to strengthen operational capacity, especially for rapid reaction. Having itself benefited from United Nations peacebuilding support, the Republic of Korea had made it a priority to contribute well-trained and disciplined troops to peacekeeping operations and had participated in 14 such operations. In addition, his delegation commended the efforts of the Secretariat to reform and strengthen peacekeeping operations through the restructuring of DPKO.

46. **Ms. Ziade** (Lebanon) said that her delegation attached great importance to the reform aimed at strengthening United Nations peacekeeping capacities. She commended the efforts made to enable the Organization to undertake increasingly difficult and complex missions.

47. Lebanon had a long relationship with United Nations peacekeeping, starting in 1948 and continuing through 1978 with the deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which continued to play a vital role in reducing very dangerous tensions despite repeated Israeli aggression against its personnel and various difficulties which, at times, had prevented it from fulfilling its mandate.

48. After the Security Council had broadened its mandate in 2006, UNIFIL had helped the Government to re-establish its authority over all Lebanese territory. The composition of that force — nearly 14,000 troops from 30 countries and with the most modern equipment — testified to the international community's commitment to peacekeeping and to the cause of Lebanon. Working in close cooperation with the Lebanese Army, UNIFIL troops had also succeeded in making human connections with the communities in which they were deployed. Their presence was reassuring and had contributed to the economic revitalization of the region.

49. In conclusion, she thanked the countries that had contributed troops and strongly condemned the attack against UNIFIL in June 2007 in which six peacekeepers had been killed.

50. **Mr. Matenje** (Malawi) noted with great concern that huge amounts of money that could have been used for the benefit of millions of people, particularly in the least developed countries, were being spent on peacekeeping operations arising from preventable conflicts. His delegation joined those calling for the allocation of adequate resources for conflict prevention, and was therefore pleased to learn that the importance of conflict prevention and peacebuilding would be addressed by the Secretary-General in an upcoming report.

51. Turning to the need for reform of United Nations working methods, he said that the Security Council should work more cooperatively with the other United Nations organs, and should engage Governments more in its decision-making. The goal of economic prosperity for all could hardly be achieved if the Security Council worked in isolation and failed to address poverty and underdevelopment, which were the root causes of conflict.

52. Malawi counted itself among the countries that had already contributed troops and police to United Nations peacekeeping operations in a variety of locations, and had recently pledged to participate in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). In furtherance of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), Malawi was including women among its peacekeepers, as true peace could not be achieved without them. The employment of women as well as men in strategic positions would also enable DPKO and DFS to address the problem of sexual violence and exploitation in areas of conflict and during peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations, and

ensure that the perpetrators of such acts were duly punished.

53. **Mr. Eboutou** (Cameroon) said that, in any peacekeeping operation, there was a need to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, to refrain from interfering in their internal affairs, and for DPKO to work closely with the troop-contributing countries. He welcomed the Department's initiative in drafting the "capstone doctrine", and expressed the hope that all Member States would have the opportunity to participate in the consultations on it.

54. To prevent the recurrence of conflict, it was essential that peacekeeping operations included disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. He also called for prompt reimbursement of troop-contributing countries, greater attention to the protection, security and training of peacekeeping personnel, and the speedy finalization of the memorandum of understanding on the administration, logistics and financing of materiel and services for peacekeeping operations as well as on standards of conduct for peacekeeping personnel. Moreover, the training of peacekeeping personnel should be multidisciplinary in nature, addressing ethical and disciplinary as well as professional and operational issues.

55. With the assistance of donor countries, Cameroon had launched a project to create a training programme for peacekeeping operations in order to provide training under United Nations auspices for police officers from African countries. He expressed his Government's gratitude for the support given by countries and organizations for the initiative. In addition to that programme, Cameroon's commitment to peacekeeping was illustrated by the participation of its personnel in numerous operations around the world, and notably by its willingness to take part in the upcoming multilateral United Nations and European Union operation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the Sudan.

56. **Ms. Pellandini** (Observer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)) said that the increasing breadth, integration and dangerous nature of United Nations peacekeeping operations highlighted the importance of developing a coherent framework for them, and expressed her organization's availability to share its expertise on matters of common interest. Interaction between ICRC and the United Nations had developed considerably, particularly with regard to operational issues and the promotion of and training in international law. It was extremely important for United Nations peacekeepers to be fully acquainted with and adhere scrupulously to the rules of international humanitarian law and other relevant bodies of law.

57. ICRC was confident that the guiding documents drafted in the framework of the DPKO reform would stipulate a clear commitment to respecting and ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and would include proper references to it. Additionally, subordinate documents such as rules of engagement, standard operating procedures and guidelines and manuals as well as standards of education and training for United Nations peacekeepers should adequately integrate international humanitarian law references when appropriate. The relevant United Nations documents should also require that the necessary steps be taken to ensure that the role and activities of ICRC were respected, facilitated and well understood by all participants in peacekeeping operations. Her organization stood ready to lend its support and expertise for the training of United Nations peacekeepers in international humanitarian law.

58. In the light of the increasing tendency to incorporate the protection of the civilian population as a standard element of peacekeeping operations, ICRC considered that the military and security dimension of United Nations peacekeepers' protection activities should be clearly distinguished from the protection activities conducted by humanitarian actors, and underlined the need to preserve neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action aimed solely at assisting and protecting victims according to their needs. For the success of humanitarian work and the safety of the personnel involved, it was essential that political or military operations, including those carried out under United Nations auspices, should not erode the neutrality of humanitarian operations.

59. **Mr. Belkheir** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, in reviewing peacekeeping operations, it was also important to try to find political and diplomatic solutions involving the parties in conflict, if possible before peacekeeping troops were dispatched. He thanked the Sudan for its contributions to the peace process, and called on all Member States to exert influence on those still under arms to participate in negotiations and put an end to the conflict there.

60. **The Chairman** said that the agenda item would remain open, and that the Committee would meet in 2008 to consider the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and adopt the relevant draft resolution submitted under that item.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.